

Maine Revised Statutes
Title 29-A: MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC
Chapter 15: INSPECTION AND REPAIR

§1854. NOTIFICATION OF VEHICLE OWNER

1. Notification in writing. The owner of the premises where an abandoned vehicle is located or the owner's agent shall notify the Secretary of State that the owner or the owner's agent is in possession of an abandoned vehicle. The notification must be in writing and on a form provided by the Secretary of State.

[2007, c. 150, §3 (AMD) .]

2. Contents of notification. This notification must include the vehicle's make, model, year, body type, vehicle identification number and any registration and plates on the vehicle. This notification also must include the date the vehicle came into possession of the owner, the owner's agent or person in charge of the premises where the vehicle is located, under what circumstances the vehicle came into that person's possession and whether the vehicle is salvage.

[2007, c. 150, §4 (AMD) .]

3. Response. On receipt of the notification, the Secretary of State shall inform the vehicle owner and lienholder, if any, by regular mail that the vehicle is being claimed under the abandoned vehicle law. The notice to the vehicle owner and lienholder, if any, must identify the vehicle by the year, make, model and vehicle identification number, give the name and address of the party claiming ownership, state the charges against the vehicle that the owner and lienholder, if any, must pay to retrieve the vehicle, and the date that the title or letter of ownership will pass to the new owner. If the party is claiming ownership of the vehicle pursuant to section 603, subsection 6, the notice must inform the vehicle owner and lienholder that the owner must pay to the Secretary of State the fee required in section 603 to transfer the title. A copy of this letter must be provided to the person claiming ownership.

[2009, c. 435, §21 (AMD) .]

4. Publication. If the Secretary of State finds no record of the vehicle, the owner of the premises where the vehicle is located shall publish a notice once in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the premises is located. That notice must clearly:

A. Describe the vehicle by the year, make, model and vehicle identification number; [1999, c. 137, §1 (AMD) .]

B. State that if the owner of the vehicle or lienholder has not properly retrieved it and paid all reasonable charges for its towing, storage and repair within 14 days from the publication, ownership of the vehicle passes to the owner of the premises where the vehicle is located; and [2011, c. 46, §2 (AMD) .]

C. State how the owner of the premises may be contacted. [1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF) .]

[2011, c. 46, §2 (AMD) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). 1999, c. 137, §1 (AMD). 2001, c. 563, §3 (AMD). 2007, c. 150, §§3-5 (AMD). 2009, c. 435, §21 (AMD). 2011, c. 46, §2 (AMD).

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